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■ NEW FUNERAL HOME

Pleasantview centre boasts video screens, iPod docks

ALLAN BENNER
Tribune Staff

THOROLD — It's a facility that allows families to remember their loved ones in a very personal way.

And the new 1,710-square-metre funeral and reception centre at Pleasantview Memorial Gardens can take care of every detail of funeral services — from an initial meeting with the family to the final resting place.

Pleasant manager Paul Scanlan is impressed with the privately-run facility.

see PLEASANTVIEW | page 2

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■ TRIBUNE TOURNAMENT: Crossley reaches consolation finals



Tribune Tournament co-chairmen Bob Muir, left, and Niagara College student services director Brigitte Chiki, right, present the consolation championship finalist plaque to E.L. Crossley co-captains Jamie MacDonald and Cullum Brownbridge. Niagara College is the tournament's major sponsor and hosted the championship quarter-final round at its 1,000-seat Athletic Centre.

JOE CSEH PelhamNEWS Photo



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upfront

■ PLEASANTVIEW

One-stop funeral and reception centre opens

FROM PAGE 1

The builders "have really done a great job," he says.

It's a new concept locally, although similar one-stop facilities have been in existence in other parts of Canada for years.

In Ontario, current legislation prevents funeral homes and cemeteries to be run at the same facility, but that's changing, Scanlan says.

Ontario's Ministry of Consumer Services has introduced legislation that comes into effect on July 1. It will essentially allow for the provision of the services of funeral homes and internet options at one location.

"All of our legislation is changing in the summer as far as how funeral homes operate," said funeral director Mike Guttin. "We're just being proactive. Now we're able to serve families at one site."

He said the new concept offers a lot of convenience to people who are already coping with the loss of a loved one.

The funeral services Pleasantview offers are not exclusive to its own cemetery. People can choose to have a funeral service at Pleasantview but then have their loved one interred at any cemetery in the region.

Every visitation room is



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

Funeral director Mike Guttin and manager Paul Scanlan stand inside the new 1,710-square-metre funeral and reception centre at Pleasantview Memorial Gardens.

equipped with an iPod dock, to allow people to play music that has more significance to the families.

"We have all the modern technology," Guttin said.

Video screens are also set up on which photographs of loved ones can be displayed.

"We are able to arrange for families to bring in all their loose photos from years and years ago. We arrange to put them on a DVD for them so now it becomes part of it."

The DVDs can be played as part of the service on retractable video screens in the 180-seat chapel, on the monitors in the visitation rooms as well as

on monitors in the large reception room.

Those same video screens can be used to broadcast the services conducted in the chapel throughout the building allowing the facility to host funerals with as many as 1,000 guests, Scanlan said.

"Audio and visual is just the beginning for us," Guttin said.

The facility also features a large lighted patio surrounded by a wooded area, where outdoor services can be held in the summer.

More information is available by calling Pleasantview Memorial Gardens at 905-892-2611.

■ PELHAM COUNCIL

Berm resolution possible in next round of revisions; Ward 3 councillor hopeful

VICTORIA GRAY
Tribune Staff

PELHAM — Residents of Pelham may have a resolution to their berm issue in the near future.

Although Pelham councillors voted against a site alteration by-law at Pelham's town council meeting Monday night, that has been in the works since September, the next round of revisions may satisfy everyone.

"I believe we can marry (a specific bylaw and a broad bylaw) together to satisfy both sides," Ward 3 councillor, Peter Papp said.

City staff prepared a bylaw to deal with neighbourhood disputes concerning berms, ponds, drain blockages and other structures, but it didn't specifically mention berms. It was too broad for Ward 1 councillor, Richard Rybiak.

"These berms destroy land for agricultural purposes for ever and neighbours are concerned for the quality of their drinking water," he said. "The bylaw needs to be much more specific it needs to deal with people's concerns."



Richard Rybiak



Peter Papp

Councillors like Gary Accursi didn't agree and upheld the belief that property owners should be able to do what they want to on their land.

"We need to minimize the impact on property rights," he said "I'm concerned if we go too specific it won't encompass other things. Being a property owner if about having common sense and treating your neighbours with respect, but common sense is not always followed

and it becomes us who must enforce common sense."

Mayor Dave Augustyn reminded councillors that at a public meeting held in September that they heard people asking for a specific solution to their problem.

So Papp suggested the bylaw be sent back to city staff to try to marry specific solutions to specific problems while keeping it broad and respecting property rights.

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■ **TRIBUNE TOURNAMENT:** Churchill 56, E.L. Crossley 25

Cyclone can't curb Bulldogs on defence

BERND FRANKÉ
Tribune Staff

WELLAND — E.L. Crossley spent much of the Tribune Boys Basketball Tournament consolation final against Sir Winston Churchill discovering that Josh Harris and Chris Milewicz are two Bulldogs whose bites are far worse than their barks.

When Harris wasn't knocking the wind out of the Cyclone as Mr. Outside by knocking down three-pointers, the 6-foot-7 Milewicz, Churchill's Mr. Inside, was calmly blocking shots like he was swatting flies, and coming down with rebounds.

And if denying cold-shooting Crossley second-chance scoring opportunities in a 56-25 loss to Churchill wasn't enough, Milewicz contributed 12 points on offence by scoring the easiest of layups.

There was nothing that came easy for the Cyclone, who lost the consolation championship for the third year in a row. Their shooting was off the entire game, thanks in large part to a smothering Bulldogs defence, and they had little success pressuring Churchill to make bad decisions.

"They were just overwhelming. They had an answer for everything we did defensively," Jamie MacDonald said after competing in his third, and final, Tribune Tournament.

"I thought this year we could finally win one, but we just weren't making the shots we

Consolation final

CHURCHILL 56, CROSSLEY 25

Scoring for Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs: Josh Harris 14, Chris Milewicz 12, Ali Ahmed 8, Mark Rankin 5, Jordan Pollock 3, Mike Fortalezza 3, Conrad Charron 2, Brennen Lefurgy-McKenzie 2, Wes Scantebury 2, Andrew Krzaczkowski 1. **Scoring for E.L. Crossley Cyclone:** Jamie MacDonald 10, Azadever 6, Jordan Ingraham 4, Dan De Jonge 2, Chris Kershaw 1, Ryan Malik 1, Caleb Stephens 1.

made to get here."

"Sir Winston Churchill was right on in shooting tonight, we weren't. It felt like nothing was going in," Cyclone coach Al Ingraham said.

For Crossley, things got worse as the Bulldogs began running away with the game and the Cyclone began rushing their shots.

"The more you try, the more frustrating it becomes," added Ingraham, who praised Churchill's play in the win.

"They're a good team." No such complaints about poor shooting were heard from Churchill's side of the sidelines after Saturday night's B final at Dillon Hall. That's because the Cyclone caught the "off-and-on" Bulldogs on one of their on days, according to Harris.

"We can really play well and then we play bad games and take a lot of fouls," said Harris, who was selected to the tournament's first all-star team.



E.L. Crossley guard Jordan Ingraham, right, muscles his way past Sir Winston Churchill's Ali Ahmed in the consolation final at the 57th Tribune Basketball Tournament.

WINNER'S CIRCLE

Centennial swept the individual awards when the Tribune Boys Basketball Tournament wrapped up Saturday night with a championship double-header at Dillon Hall.

Mark Fehrman won the Larry Cooney Trophy as most valuable player at the 57th edition

of Ontario's oldest high school tournament.

Centennial's Dakota Lamarre received the Jeff Adams Award as the tournament's outstanding defensive player. Sam Nero, also of the Cougars, was selected most sportsmanlike player and Morgan Louks went home with the Harpwood's Trophy as the best overall cheerleader.

Following are all-star and team awards presented on the final

night of the tournament:

■ **First all-star team:** Jack Daneyko, A.N. Myer; Mark Fehrman, Centennial; Josh Harris, Sir Winston Churchill; Dakota Lamarre, Centennial; Richard Stayer, Centennial;

■ **Second all-star team:** Tim Dougan, A.N. Myer; Chris Louks, A.N. Myer; Jamie MacDonald, E.L. Crossley; Chris Milewicz, Sir Winston Churchill; Sam Nero, Centennial;

■ **Cheerleading all-star team:** Chelsea Collins, Centennial; Alyssa Croce, Notre Dame; Shania Griffiths, Centennial; Morgan Louks, Centennial; Lindsay Molnar, Notre Dame; Holly Richard, Notre Dame;

■ **Most sportsmanlike team:** Eastdale;

■ **Top cheerleading team:** Notre Dame;

■ **School spirit, cheerleading:** Centennial.

JOE CSEH PelhamNEWS Photo

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■ perspective

Barbie worst role model in life or death situation

A young girl is terribly ill. She has leukemia. Treatments cause her to lose her hair.

It's impossible to feel too much sympathy for that child, or enough empathy for her parents. That, but the internet-fueled lobby to induce Mattel to market a bald Barbie, a doll especially for children with cancer, is perhaps the worst idea to hit the toy industry since Barbie struck her size-3s toe into out of the box more than 50 years ago.

No one needs to give Barbie cancer to make her more accessible. Barbie is a cancer on her own. With two dolls purchased every second worldwide, she is too accessible now.

The concept of bald Barbie was born of two American women, a grown lymphoma patient who lost her hair as a result of chemotherapy, and the mother of a 12-year-old girl with cancer. Behind their idea is the desire to give girls without hair a doll "that looks like them."

These well-meaning but sadly misguided women started a Facebook page to lobby for "Beautiful and Bald Barbies." Their site has nearly 100,000 Likes and their cause has made headlines around the hemisphere.

With or without hair, Barbie is never going to look like a real girl or a woman. Any attempt to cocoon Barbie with health or esteem is as obscene as well, as the fact that children get leukemia.

In real-life terms she is 5-foot-9, weighs 110 pounds and doesn't have the body mass index to support a menstrual cycle. According to one university study, the odds of a human female matching Barbie's body proportions is one in 100,000. With a 39-inch bust, 18-inch waist, 33-inch hips and an elongated neck and legs, other research suggests that if Barbie was a real woman she would be able to stand up.

Unrealistic, unsustainable and unhealthy female images are just plain ugly.

A young girl finding the courage to battle a terrible disease and the love a mother who supports a child with cancer — these things define feminine beauty. So if it empowers one child or one family to lose Barbie's head, they should go ahead and do it on their own.

— Andrea DeMeer

comment

Ways of working together with you

Last week I wrote to you about how your municipal council is organized. But, how can you or other members of the public get your suggestions or improvements examined and implemented?

Public meetings: You can provide suggestions during "public meetings." Most public meetings involve specific planning matters and follow a formal agenda — presentations by staff and the applicant, direct input by members of the public with questions and comments, and comments by Councilors. We invariably direct staff to prepare a report for action based on the public input.

Open houses: You can also give us your ideas at open houses or "public information centres."



Dave Augustyn
MAYORAL CANDIDATE

These sessions generally include diagrams, maps, or mock-ups and, over a couple of hours, provide you with an opportunity to ask questions and make written suggestions or comments. For example, staff is organizing an open house as part of the development of the Town's New Heritage Master Plan on Jan. 27. Workshops: After generally starting with a presentation by a consultant or staff, workshops usually break-up into small groups

to solicit interactive feedback and suggestions. In the past, the Town as held workshops regarding a vision for the Town's "Community Improvement Plan," the Official Plan, and the East Fonthill Secondary Plan.

Pre-budget meeting: I am very proud that Council starts with a special public presentation of an annual budget deliberations with a public meeting. We refer all your input for consideration as staff prepares the budget. We held our 2012 Pre-Budget Meeting in October and the ideas and issues raised at that meeting will receive special attention as we consider the operating budget on January 30.

Letters, e-mail, phone calls,

etc: You can also use standard communication methods to make a suggestion or get your point across. If you write about a major issue or request a policy change, your letter will go to the appropriate committee for information or action. Of course you can also call staff, councilors or myself directly. You can also request a meeting to discuss your issue.

Presentations: You can also make a formal presentation at one of our Council or General Committee meetings. To do so, you need to make a formal request to the Town Clerk in writing before 4:30 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding the meeting. The Town's Procedural Bylaw limits presentations to 10 minutes, but offers no time limit on questions by Councilors; it also allows the number of presentations to four per meeting.

These are some of the major ways in which Council and I welcome your involvement in the Town!

You may contact Mayor Dave at mayordave@peham.ca or read past columns at pehammayordave.blogspot.com.



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Dimensions of Health in Niagara

With the exception of long term care, there are three main components to the delivery of health services in Niagara. First, there is the Public Health Department, a joint responsibility of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Niagara Region, with Regional Council being the Board of Health. Their role in health is primarily proactive through promoting healthy development and lifestyle, preventing chronic disease and injuries, and protecting communities from infectious diseases and environmental hazards. Secondly, within the Public Health Department, there exists the Niagara Emergency Medical Services division. This division



Brian Baty
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

is composed of two components, the communications or dispatch unit and the paramedic or ambulance unit. Their role in health is to stabilize a patient's condition, rapid transport to hospital for triage and resuscitation treatment, as well as inter-facility transfers for both emergency and non-emergency situations. The third component of health is the healthcare system itself which is composed of primary care and specialist physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals

as well as the hospitals which are governed by the Niagara Health System. Many citizens mistakenly believe that Regional Council has the mandate of funding and operating the healthcare system. That is not the case but we do have a responsibility in ensuring that the three main components of the total health sector integrate effectively and efficiently.

One area for improvement of the interface between the health sectors is the method of dispatching responses to 911 calls. Currently there is a tiered response and you may see fire fighters, paramedics and police all responding to a 911 call.

Regional Council is undertaking a study this term to determine if there are more sophisticated response technologies available

that would direct emergency 911 calls to a single emergency responder in most cases. Certainly in a major vehicular accident there may in fact be need for all three categories of first responders but in many cases only a paramedic and ambulance are required.

The second area of concern is the holdup at emergency rooms before patients can be released by the paramedics into the hospital's care. This issue is added to as "off load delays." The issue is complicated by the fact that the emergency room may not be the best source of care for citizens who call 911 and is transported to hospital by an ambulance.

see BATY | page 5

■ **LUNCHEON:** Chambers of commerce unite for February event

FROM PAGE 4

Brian Baty is a Niagara Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham and is the Co-Chair of the Public Health and Social Services Committee brian.baty@niagararegion.ca

The luncheon is organized by the Welland-Pelham, Port



She encouraged people to book a seat in advance. To RSVP call the Welland-Pelham chamber at 905-732-7515.

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■ RESTRUCTURING: Jobs

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority cutting and hiring

EDDIE CHAU
 PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND — Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has eliminated eight jobs as part of a restructuring plan — but plans to create five new ones.

The job losses were in NPCA's water management department.

Chief administrative officer Tony D'Amario said the changes are in response to current business needs and will improve customer service delivery.

"We have advised the (NPCA) board and the municipalities of the changes," D'Amario said.

He said processing times of the company's resources may be slower during the transition time until the

staff positions have been filled.

The new structure of the conservation authority's water management department will have three core divisions: watershed development services, watershed stewardship and watershed technical services.

The restructuring will incorporate five new positions that will facilitate customer interaction in those divisions, he said.

Recruitment for the new spots will begin immediately.

The NPCA is an organization aimed at environmental protection and preservation and watershed management activities in Niagara. Its office is based on Thorold Rd.

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St. Alex – it's the one with the copper top

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■ pelhambriefs

NO LOSING FOR PANTHERS

PELHAM — The Star Tile Pelham Panthers aren't looking to lose any time soon.

The team has not lost in the last eight league games, with the last three games ending in 3-0 Win over Lincoln, 3-1 win over Dunnville and 3-2 come

from behind win over West Lincoln.

Goalies Conary Coyne and Devin Chmerika have been solid in net while Mitchell Vanhoffer has been playing extremely well on defense and Thomas Young for the forwards.

Team captain Sam Fennel along with the other leaders on the team, Zach Otto and Reize

Huard have been playing with extreme confidence leading the team on this great run. The Panthers will now play their final two games later this month against Niagara Falls and Thorold before beginning the NDHL play offs for a spot in the OMHA Playdowns.

TEAM IMPROVES WINNING STREAK

PELHAM — The Pelham Panthers under-10 girls basketball team ran its winning streak to three games and improved to 9-7 overall with a pair of weekend wins.

Leading the way for the Panthers in a 29-15 victory over Grimsby and 37-14 triumph over Niagara Falls were Ally

Sentence, 31 points, including 23 versus Niagara Falls, four rebounds, eight steals and two assists; Jordyn Britton, eight points, 12 rebounds and five steals; Lexia Poitras, eight points, five rebounds and five steals; Sydney Grummett, six points, six rebounds and five steals; Kaley Demont, five points, five rebounds, six steals and three assists; Tess Puchalski, one point, eight rebounds (six offensive).

Next up for the team, which is sponsored by Mike Krupp Ford, Tora Inc., Giant Tiger Fonthill, Niagara Dental Centre, Miles Kulik MHC Mortgage Services and Colonial Florists, is the Ancestor tournament this weekend.

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■ **TRANSPORTATION:** Warning comes from city CAOs, transit chiefs

Committee backs students' U-passes on region buses

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency

THOROLD — Let 'em ride, a regional council committee says of students' access to Niagara Region Transit.

Council's public works committee recommended Tuesday to recognize student U-passes aboard the region's pilot inter-municipal bus system until the end of the school term. The decision came despite a letter from the CAOs and transit managers from St. Catharines, Welland and Niagara Falls warning the

vote could break part of the pilot agreement and step around negotiations already ongoing with the local transit services and the students.

Brock University and Niagara College students representatives took the vote positively, though it still has to pass through council.

"We're obviously very happy," said Niagara College student administration council president Brian Costantini, who addressed the committee alongside Brock University student union president David Grewal and vice-president

of finance Will Parent.

He said council's deferral of the issue in December was disappointing, but "this basically gives us that second chance."

The Region buys its fledgling bus service from transit providers in St. Catharines, Welland and the Falls. Those three services allow students to use universal bus passes, but aboard Niagara Region Transit they must pay the full \$5 fare.

Those passes are negotiated for between the city bus systems and the student unions and paid for with a special charge. At

Brook, students pay about \$168.84 year-round toward the U-passes, while Niagara College students pay \$69.50 per term.

Students had complained of being bypassed by overcrowded municipal buses, most often on the busy Thorold Stone Rd. route, while largely empty Niagara Region Transit buses go by that their passes are no good aboard.

An amendment by St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan tacked a list of

recommendations in the CAOs' letter on to their vote. They call for a six-person co-ordination committee to meet, for negotiations between the committee and student unions to continue, and for all sides to acknowledge a need for new revenue sources rather than just moving existing ones around.

The letter warns the vote could break a provision of the pilot agreement requiring all sides to commit to seeking funding opportuni-

ties and maximize their revenues co-operatively.

"The only partners we would ever treat so poorly would be our municipal partners," McMullan said.

"We're now going outside of the services and saying add all these extra riders on for free. I'm not sure we have the right to do that, but I think we could negotiate that."

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn said he saw a first semester of U-pass access as a "pilot within a pilot."

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Secondary Accommodation Review
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91 Bunting Road, St. Catharines, Ontario

Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Schools involved in the review area are:
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St. Catharines Collegiate, West Park and Thorold



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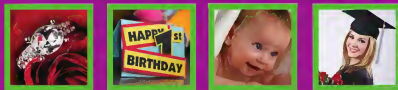
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